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BOOK NOTICES.

Elementary Physical Geography. By Ralph S. Tarr, B.S., F.G.S.A., Assistant Professor of Dynamic Geology and Physical Geography at Cornell University, Author of "*Economic Geology of the United States.*" Macmillan & Co., New York and London. 1895. Price \$2.50.

In preparing this book, Mr. Tarr has made an attempt to meet the apparent demand for a new text-book on physical geography without following what he calls the somewhat radical suggestions, which were made by the majority of the Geography Conference of the Committee of Ten,* though he does not neglect the physiographic side of his subject. The sole purpose has been to present facts and furnish information without discussing methods, and the author has little faith in the value of text-book work without the aid of the laboratory and field study.

The three parts into which the book is divided treat, respectively, of the air, the ocean and the land. The earth as a planet, the solar system and the nebular hypothesis find a place in the first division with the atmosphere, its circulation and disturbances, weather and climate and the geographic distribution of animals and plants; a range wide enough to satisfy the most exacting physiographer. Logically, a description of nature may fairly include everything that is, but the nebular hypothesis might, perhaps, be taken for granted in this case.

The orderly presentation of topics and the care taken to insure scientific accuracy are deserving of praise; but it must not be supposed that the book is a repository of dry facts. It is, on the contrary, full of vitality and freshness for the reader as well as for the student, and every one interested in the new physical geography, which has absorbed and transformed the old, will make haste to possess the volume. The style is generally direct and clear, though marred at times by an incorrect word or phrase, such as *proven* and *we now know considerable*.

Mr. Tarr makes great use of illustrations, all well chosen, but not always successfully rendered.

See *Reports of a Conference on Geography*, Journal of Am. Geog. Soc., Vol. XXVII, 1895, pp. 30-41.